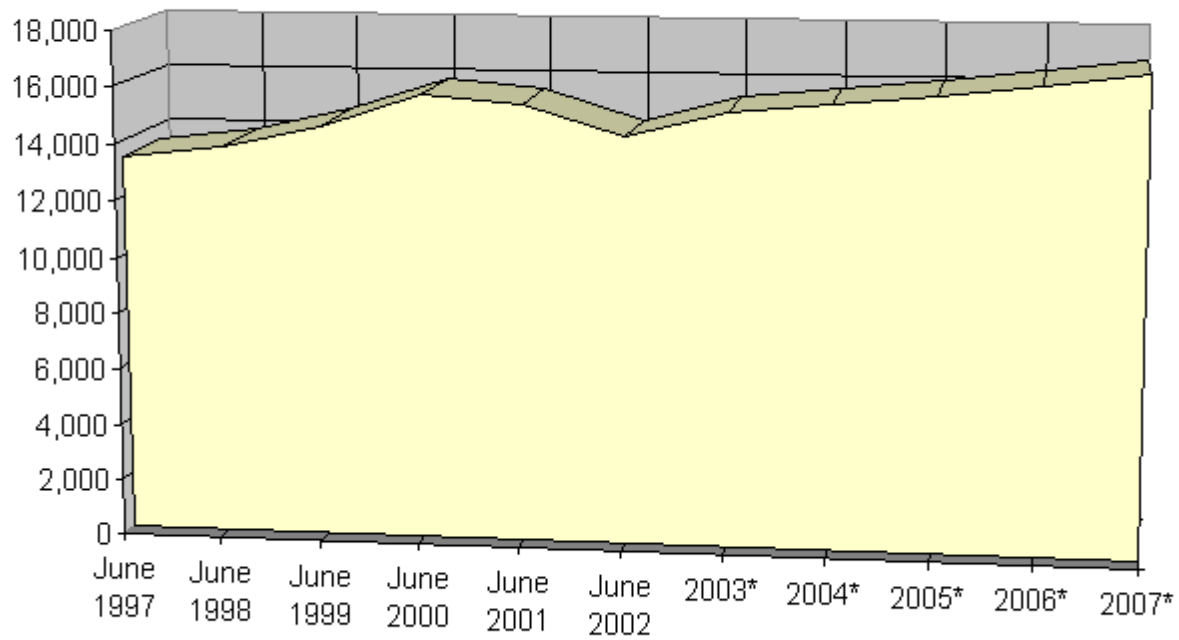


Almost 70 percent of employment in the broad TCU sector is in transportation, up 53 percent from 1996. NAFTA and the growth of production sharing has been responsible for much of this rise, as the demands of the maquila industry have contributed to a sharp rise in trucking and warehousing activity over the past five years. This trend is expected to continue, with the forecast for transportation employment to rise from 10,453 jobs last year to just over 11,000 positions by 2006.

Growth in the trucking industry often entails small business entrepreneurs who have started small and have grown robustly to a fleet of trucks within a few years. Some economists in the area argue that this rapid growth is spurred by the maquiladora industry. Given the large scale expansion of the maquiladora in-bond assembly sector across the state of Chihuahua, it is not surprising that the greatest increases in cross-border bridge traffic are in the form of cargo vehicles flowing through Central and East El Paso. For these reasons, opportunities are abundant in the El Paso trucking and warehousing industry.

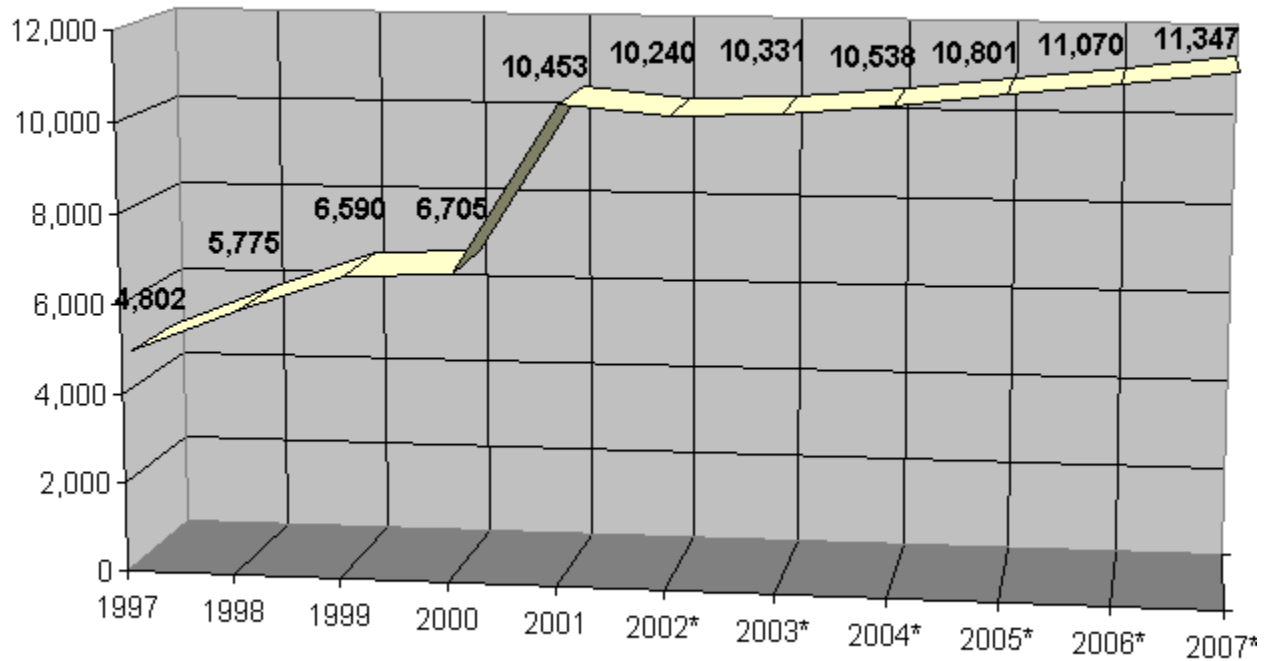
El Paso MSA Transportation, Communications, and Public Utilities Employment Growth and Projections 1997 - 2007



Source: Texas Workforce Commission, Labor Market Information.

*Figures Derived by Texas Perspectives Inc.

El Paso MSA Trucking and Warehousing Employment Growth and Projections 1997 - 2007



Source: Texas Workforce Commission, Labor Market Information.

* Figures Derived from Employment Forecasts in the El Paso Economic Adjustment Strategic Plan.